

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 28th January 2026

Present Cllr Ham (Chairman) Banks, Evans, Paterson, Pearce, and Townsend.

In attendance Somerset Cllr Barry Clarke and 5 members of the public present
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 A parishioner reported a pothole next to the zebra crossing. Cllr Townsend said that he was aware of the issue and would ensure that repair is pursued with Somerset highways.

Action: Cllr Townsend to report

- 1.2 It was noted that there are several low branches in the hedgerows either side of the roads through Vobster.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate

- 1.3 It was reported that a pot hole which had formed adjacent to a drain on Anchor Road, had been repaired but the spoil had been left on the side of the road and the drain was now blocked.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate & report

- 1.4 It was noted that the drain outside of the old Co-op (Legion side) has previously been tarmacked over and is just starting to become revealed.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate & report

- 1.5 The Coleford village sign at the Lipyeate end of the village is loose.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate & report

2. Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Allen, Fisher, Bell, Douglas-Burke, Paterson, Swords and Moulding sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Planning Applications

- 4.1 2026/0023/LBC and 2026/0022/HSE – The Old Mill, Hippy’s Farm Lane, Coleford
Replacement of a 1960’s single storey extension with a new single storey extension.
All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council had refused the previous application on the basis that the extension was not in keeping with the original listed building. The new application had addressed those points and it was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the application should be recommended for approval.

Vote: 5 For; 0 Against and 1 Abstention (Somerset Cllr)

Action: Clerk to report decision to Somerset Planning department

- 4.2 2025/2250/HSE– 15 Newbury Cottages, Newbury Hill, Coleford
First Floor extension to side extension
This application was considered at the last meeting.
- 4.3 Appeal reference 6003059 – 4 Rope Walk, Coleford, Radstock
Planning app no: 2025/1770/PIP - Permission in Principle for 6 dwellings & garages
Parish Council representatives will meet with the Somerset East Planning Officer Ros Eastman to discuss the appeal and establish if Somerset intend to defend the appeal. It was noted that the Appeal has errors e.g. it was not a full application and the land ownership is incorrectly stated. It was noted that the Planning in Principle application appeal should be disallowed and the following points be considered:-

Location

- development limits
- highway safety through Rope Walk
- services available e.g. buses get to work service
- access to services unsafe e.g. footpaths
- safety of wider road network
- foul drains

Land Use

- loss of agricultural
- mining safety issues
- ecology impact, e.g. bats

Amount of Development

- 6 houses trivial in context of alleged housing shortfall

In summary the Harms outweighs the Benefits

Action: Agenda item for February

5 Planning updates

Update on the Ilos Solar Proposal, on land southwest of Cherry Garden Farm, BA11 3RL - The Clerk has spoken with the office manager of Ilos New Energy who explained that the application was in the early stages and if it is to progress, then they would be in touch to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council and reassured that there would be public consultation as part of the planning process.

6 Consider draft response regarding the Freedom of Information request to Somerset Planning (To provide information relating to how much it has cost tax payers on the Local Plan, Limited Update for the 505)

A draft response had been circulated to all Councillors and it was agreed that it would be sent pressing Somerset Council to provide the information requested.

7 Finance

7.1 Bank Reconciliation – Cllr Paterson to check and sign the reconciliation prior to the next meeting.

7.2 Agree 3rd quarter budget review for 2025/26 – The updated budget review to be shared with all Councillors so that it can be signed off by the Chair at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for February

7.3 Discuss and agree budget and precept for 2026/27 – The Finance working party had considered the proposed budget for 2026/27 and made some adjustments which had been shared with full council. The Chairman thanked everyone for their input. After discussion it was proposed that the precept should be set at £91,320, a 9% increase, which equates to an extra £9.50 per week per band D household, or 19p a week. For most parishioners it will be less as 75% of households are band A to D and 25% are band E to H. It was proposed by Cllr Pearce that the precept be set at £91,320 which was seconded by Cllr Townsend.

Vote: 5 For; 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Clerk to submit the precept request

7.4 Update on Grant applications for the hardcourt goals

The Clerk confirmed that quotes for 2 x goals with integrated basketball hoops had been obtained and the most suitable, which offered best value was from Redlynch Leisure @ £8,085 plus VAT. It was agreed that the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund grant application should be submitted for £4,000 with the Parish Council providing the match funding.

The Clerk explained that a second application would be submitted to the Somerset Community Foundation's Stronger Communities Fund, which is due to re-open late January/early February for £4,085 which if successful will replace the need for the Parish Council to contribute towards the goals.

Action: Clerk to submit both applications

8 Discuss and agree what colour the Careys Mead phone box should be painted

All Councillors contributed to the debate as to what colour the telephone box should be painted. It was agreed that the Clerk would put together a flyer seeking the opinion of those living next to the phone box.

Action: Clerk to draft flyer and once approved, post on the phone box and deliver to houses that overlook the telephone box.

9 Date of Next Meetings:

25 th February 2026	Planning meeting
11 th February 2026	Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished at 8.25pm